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A2

5 An apparatus, system and process for simultaneously imaging a number of articles, each of which has applied thereto a unique encoded symbology distinguishing each article from every other article in the number of articles. The symbology encoding for all the articles, in an array of such articles, is simultaneously illuminated and imaged by one or more CCD type cameras. The resulting images of the array of encoded symbologies is thereafter assembled and decoded. The symbology encoded articles may, for example, be test tubes disposed in a rack and the CCD imaging may be effected by four cameras which are disposed to image the

10 array of such symbologies.

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